



The Caller

February 1, 2015

Andrea and I like to spend our New Year's Eve attending *First Night Alexandra*. We enjoy walking around the cobblestone sidewalks of Old Towne and hearing the variety of musical acts. We always hear at least one performance in the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. I love the name: Meeting House. The church used to be the third place of choice for people to meet. The first two were the home and the office or shop. The church was the place where the community met to govern, for mourning, for celebrating, and for relationship building. It was a neutral place where all were welcome. Regulars and newcomers gathered in a playful atmosphere.

Leonard Sweet in his book, "The Gospel According to Starbucks," laments that for most people the church is no longer that third place where folks gather to build relationships. The church has become a propositional place where people go to be convinced of transcendental truth or have their religious convictions affirmed from the pulpit. He wonders if most churches have failed to become a sacred place for making connections.

It is not just that the church has failed to be the third place of choice. Other meeting places where men and women gathered for conversation and to build relationships have also diminished in importance. Who goes to the beauty parlor the same time every week to catch up on the news around town? Few people live in small towns where people regularly met several times a week for coffee or lunch. Mothers of young children used to develop close friendships in organized play groups. Golf clubs and bowling teams got men together regularly for fellowship and camaraderie. Now people bowl alone and three golf courses close every week. The most

common complaint in urban life is the feeling of being disconnected and lonely. Where do I go to talk about things that are important?

The phenomenal growth of social media is primarily due to the need to make connections and to share one's life in busy urban environments. For many it helps keep them connected. But studies show that the more time you spend on social media the less connected you feel.

Starting on February 22nd, CCPC will be going to a new Sunday morning format. We will have:

8:30 AM and 10:30 AM - Worship Services
9:30 AM to 10:15 AM - Educational Groups
(for people of all ages)

These educational groups are not just designed to increase the spiritual knowledge of attendees; it is hoped that more people will develop the close and enduring friendships that are so lacking in modern life. We are designing adult offerings that provide more time for discussion and overall conversation.

Twenty-five years ago I was placed in a group of eight men who met weekly over breakfast. This group sustained me during the most difficult and challenging moments in my life. Although I was extremely busy at the time with my roles as pastor and parent of four pre-teen and teenaged children, I never missed the 7:00 AM Wednesday meeting at the Land and Sea diner. Four of these men I still visit every year. I am now blessed with another group of men who study and share our various callings in life. Each of them will testify to how this group has blessed them.

I want you to try a Sunday morning educational group. Make CCPC the new third place in your life.

Grace and peace,
James Brassard

Worship Notes

February 1st:

In preparation for our annual congregational meeting, I will offer a State of the Church sermon. Contrary to the diminished role faith has in the elite institutions in America, followers of Jesus still have three vital roles to play. The text is the *Walk to Emmaus* in *Luke 24:13-35*. Our new Director of Christian Education, Justin Devine, will offer his part in this ministry.

February 8th:

Isaiah 40:28-32 offers some of the most poetic affirmations of God coming to the rescue. Given the choice between a source of relief that is distant and slow acting but guaranteed, and one that is nearby but not totally effective, most persons tend to choose the relief close at hand. What are the forces that bring about a brighter and fuller life?



February Sunday Calendar

Sunday, February 1, 2015

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship with Communion -- Sanctuary
11:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting
10:20 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade

Sunday, February 8, 2015 – Scout Sunday

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship with Scout Sunday -- Sanctuary
10:20 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
10:20 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High
11:15 AM Adult Ed: Assessing the movie "Selma" and Civil Rights Today -- Adult Ed Conf Rm
11:15 AM Children's Ministries Meeting -- Parlor
6:30 PM Discovery Circle -- Parlor
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room
7:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale Bd Mtg -- Adult Ed Conf Rm

Sunday, February 15, 2015

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship -- Sanctuary
10:20 AM Sunday School: Cradle Roll through 5th Grade
10:30 AM Sunday Morning Connect: Jr. and Sr. High
11:15 AM Adult Ed: Race Relations Status -- Adult Ed Conf Rm
12 Noon Free Yoga for Veterans -- CE Building
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Sunday, February 22, 2015

New Worship Schedule Begins

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
9:30 AM Christian Education Groups
10:30 AM Worship Service w/ Optional Activity -- Sanctuary
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Thank You!

Many, many thanks to the knitters who contributed to the scarf project for the 2014 Christmas Families. We are kicking off the New Year a bit late, starting in February. We will hold our first meeting on Monday, February 16th at 1:00 PM in the Parlor. We will be working on scarves for this year's scarf project, as well as making a few prayer shawls along the way for the prayer shawl ministry.

All knitters are invited to participate, even if you cannot come to our monthly get-togethers. If and when you turn in an item, please attach your name so we know who is participating. Many, many thanks to all who have helped and continue to help. Priscilla Bouic, 301-262-4906

The Gadabouts

The Gadabouts will have their normal monthly meeting in the adult education conference room on Tuesday, February, 3rd at 12 noon.

For those of you who have not heard of the Gadabouts, we are a group of women who meet for lunch in the adult ed conference room, at a local restaurant, or have a potluck at someone's home at noon on the first Tuesday of each month. Periodically, we take day trips to places like New York City and Lancaster to see plays or other events. We would love to see new faces!

If you are interested in joining us for any of our lunches or events, please contact Marge Clarke by phone 410-451-0833 or by email mhclark@verizon.net.

Children's Ministry Meeting

Children's Ministries will be holding a meeting in the Parlor on Sunday, February 8th following the 10 AM worship service. We encourage all parents, grandparents, teachers, potential teachers, volunteers and all persons interested in Children's Ministries to attend the meeting. The Children Ministries meeting will include information regarding plans for the upcoming transition to the dedicated educational hour and the new Director of Education. We also hope to use this meeting to obtain your input and ideas for the coming months. All are welcome.

2014 Offering Statements

Your 2014 Statements of Offerings are in the Atrium.
Please call or email Sandy Dorsey with questions at 240-271-4052, sancath1@aol.com.

Justin Devine's Contact Information

Justin, our new Director of Christian Education, can be reached by
email: ccpcdirced@verizon.net or by phone: 301-262-6008
His office is located next to Rev. Brassard's (Margaret Hallau's old office).
Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



On Saturday, March 7th, 2015, CCPC will host a Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

The half-day workshop is designed to both enhance our caregiving skills at CCPC and to help other congregations explore ways to expand their caring ministry. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M., and refreshments will be served.

One reason we're so excited about helping other congregations learn about Stephen Ministry is that this ministry is making life better for people here at CCPC. Since we began Stephen Ministry in **2006, fourteen of our members** have gone through 50 hours of training in order to provide quality one-to-one Christian care to hurting people. If you think you might be interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry, attend the workshop. This is only an introductory workshop, not a full training session.

Members of CCPC are invited to attend the workshop free of charge.

However, it is still important to pre-register so that we will have plenty of materials on the day of the workshop. If you would like to be added to our congregation's list of participants, please contact **Anita Pesses** at **301 805-1644** or e-mail **her** at **anita.pesses@gmail.com** or contact **Sue Evans** at **301 262-2840** or email at **sue@evansopticalengineering.com**.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity for personal growth and to learn more about Stephen Ministry.

Are you interested in becoming a Member of CCPC?

Rev. Brassard will be holding a membership seminar for those individuals who are interested in becoming members of the church. The gatherings will be held on March 1st, 8th, and 15th during the Education hour (9:30-10:15AM). The classes will cover basic church beliefs and the ways in which we practice the faith at CCPC.

We will meet in the Pastors study.

On March 15th, the Session will join us as we welcome you to the ministry of the church. Please let Rev. Brassard know of your interest by emailing ccpcpastor@verizon.net or by making a notation on the pew pads during worship.



The Feb. 15th Caller will be sent out on February 13. Please have all articles in by 9 AM on Tuesday, February 10. Any questions, please call the office.

Sue Cobb Memorial Scholarship Pancake Dinner

Sue Cobb fought a courageous battle against ovarian cancer for more than seven years. She was very active at CCPC. Sue served on Session and was very involved in our Missions. She loved and lived for serving others. We honor her memory with an annual scholarship to a young woman from our congregation. Your support of this dinner will help fund this scholarship.

The dinner will be on Shrove Tuesday, February 17th from 6 to 8 PM in Dodds Hall.

All female seniors are given an application for the scholarship, which is reviewed by a committee consisting of PWOC *Woman of the Year* recipients. Sue was a 2009 *Woman of the Year*.

The scholarship will be awarded on Women's Sunday.

Adult Education

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!

Let's go see the film "Selma" at our favorite theater before February 8th!

If you missed the movie day with Rev. Brassard on Saturday, January 31st, it's not too late to go see *Selma* with a group of your own or by yourself before the discussion on February 8th.

February 8th at 11:15 AM in the Adult Education Conference Room

Assessing the movie *Selma* and where we are today in Civil Rights
with Von Willingham, Ellen Wimbish, and Wayne Smith

And, don't miss our next class:

February 15th at 11:15 AM in the Adult Education Conference Room

What is the Status of Race Relations and What Should We Do?

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat will be from April 10th—12th at the Rhodes Grove Conference Center in Chambersburg, PA. Registration deadline is March 15th with at least half the payment due.

Pay in full by March 15th and receive a \$15 discount!

Registration forms are in the atrium.

Contact Peggy Oates 301-262-6959 or peggyoates@hotmail.com

Lenten Readings

Looking for a different Lenten discipline this year?

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Join us in the Sanctuary each morning (except Sundays) during Lent
(February 18th through April 4th) at 7:15 AM

for the reading of the daily lectionary and a brief prayer.

We are usually finished by 7:30 AM.



4TH ANNUAL
Richard Felix Lamrouex
MEMORIAL
B.I.R.C. BOWLING FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, March 1, 2015 2:00 P.M.

Objective: To raise money for the Bowie Food Pantry

Location: Crofton Bowling Centre, Crofton, MD
Cost: \$21.00 per bowler (3 games)

Food will be provided for at the Bowling Centre by Chef Jeff Catering.
(Drinks not included)

Door prizes will be awarded randomly to participants.

Please complete the form below and give completed form to your B.I.R.C. representative _____ or send to James Lamrouex (2804 Federal Lane, Bowie, MD 20715) to reserve your spot. Late entries may bring form to Crofton Bowling Centre on Sunday March 1st at 1:30 p.m. (Lanes will be assigned on first come basis, maximum of 5 bowlers per lane.)

Congregation (if applicable): _____

Bowler 1: _____

Bowler 2: _____

Bowler 3: _____

Bowler 4: _____

Bowler 5: _____

Note:

If you do not have a team of five bowlers, we will make every effort to combine bowlers.
Also, shoe rentals will be provided free of charge to those needing bowling shoes.
Bowling shoes must be worn on the bowling lanes, no exceptions.

Canned foods, dry goods, and free-will donations to the food pantry will be collected at the Bowling fundraiser.

Thank You in advance for your support and participation in this event.
100% of the proceeds will go to the Bowie Food Pantry.

For information or to reserve your lane, please call James Lamrouex at
443-250-5099 or email Lamrouex@ceiinc.com



Come Sing with Us

The Bowie Senior Chorale is in need of Basses and Tenors to sing with the group. The 100 member Chorale practices every Thursday from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM at the Bowie Senior Center. The Chorale performs four concerts a year; two in the spring and two during the holiday season.

No previous experience is necessary. You do not need to be a resident of Bowie. If you are interested in joining the Chorale, call the Bowie Senior Center (301-809-2300) and leave your name and contact information.



Christian Community Presbyterian Church



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E-mail: ccpcbowie@verizon.net



CCPC, the first Protestant church in Levitt Bowie, was born from a passion for Christian mission in the local community, and this focus continues.

*Our Mission: To worship God, to grow in faith and community,
and to place our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ.*



Belair Cooperative Nursery School

The school is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization. It's located in the CE Building of Christian Community Presbyterian Church.

Call 301-464-5782 or Email info@belaircoop.org
www.belaircoop.org



Imagine - Yoga & Wellness Center

Located in the CE building, offers yoga and a variety of wellness programs to CCPC members and the community. For more information, visit www.ImagineThePlace.com, call 443-510-6308, or e-mail Ann@ImagineThePlace.com. Scholarships available.

